

USDA Organic Livestock & Poultry Practices Rule is Back!

Along with in-person NOSB meetings, organic conferences, and natural food shows, OLPP is back. The USDA announced June 17 that they plan to reinstate organic animal welfare standards that were withdrawn during the past administration.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has released the following statement in regard to the

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule:

"We intend to reconsider the prior Administration's interpretation that the Organic Foods Production Act does not authorize USDA to regulate the practices that were the subject of the 2017 Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule. I have directed the National

Organic Program to begin a rulemaking to address this statutory interpretation and to include a proposal to disallow the use of porches as outdoor space in organic production over time and on other topics that were the subject of the OLPP final rule. We anticipate sending the proposed rule to OMB within six to nine months from the date of the remand. We look forward to receiving public comments on those topics and, after reviewing the comments, USDA will publish a final rule."

Link to USDA Statement: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/2e47a5e>



USDA will publish the rule for notice and comment, For those who supported the rule but thought a few additional adjustments were needed, this is welcome news. This process will allow for potential improvements to the OLPP.

The final rule was published in 2017 after 10 years of grassroots action and consensus building. Action at the federal level was postponed and finally it was killed/withdrawn (or so we thought) in 2018. Fortunately, it has been resurrected. A lawsuit led by the Center for Food Safety (CFS) challenged the withdrawal of the rule in 2018.

From a 6/17/2017 CFSA press release - "After 4 years of hard-fought litigation....This is a major victory for all those who care about a meaningful organic label," said Amy van Saun, senior attorney at Center for Food Safety (CFS) and counsel in the litigation. "Finally, USDA will close the loophole allowing factory farms to produce 'organic' eggs and chicken, and level the playing field for real organic farmers already providing high welfare to their animals."

Link to more about the CFSA Lawsuit:

<https://tinyurl.com/vhbx4fc>

For more about the OTA OLPP lawsuit, see page 4

Notes from the Chair

by Rachel Cherry Myers

Hello to all!!

Hasn't it been a crazy whirlwind since the last newsletter?!

I'm writing this under the wire for the deadline. Why? Because I just completed my first big inspection trip in over a year and a half.....and it felt oh so very good! The pastures seem to be getting enough rain this year in the northeast and so cow and dairyman alike are just starting to exhale a sigh of relief. It was glorious walking through hay fields and sitting at tables thumbing through seed tags. I was a little worried about the house plants and potted herbs I've been able to keep alive without being on the road.....but was happy to see them (mostly) happy and healthy when I walked in the door after a week away!!

Welcome New Members

Supporting Individuals

Anne Drehfal, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
 Paige Gilligan, Clovis, CA
 Nitesh Datt, Suva, Fiji
 Kim Cruse, Castle Hayne, North Carolina
 Jennifer Ungmach,
 San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Supporting Businesses

Accredited Certifiers Assn.,
 Port Richey, FL
 Sertifikācijas un testēšanas centrs
 Anzanas Makarevičius, Latvia

Accreditation Applications: Next Deadline October 1

IOIA offers inspector accreditation for members in 3 categories: Crops, Livestock, and Processing. Applicants must meet minimum criteria.

Accreditation is a voluntary program. [More info on our website.](#)

Webinar Discount Note:
 All IOIA Inspector Members are eligible for 1 half-price webinar in 2021.

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The Inspectors' Report is the newsletter of International Organic Inspectors Association. IOIA is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training and to promote integrity and consistency in the organic certification process.
 Editor: Diane Cooner webgallat.ioia.net

WEBINAR Training Schedule

for details & to register go to: www.ioia.net/schedule_list.html

100 Level Webinar - August 10 and 13, 2021

NOP Crop Standard

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hour sessions.
 Trainer: Garry Lean. Member cost \$325

100 Level Webinar - August 31 and September 3, 2021

NOP Processing Standard

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hour sessions.
 Trainer: Garry Lean. Member cost \$325

300 Level Webinar - September 10, 2021 - Organic Cosmetics

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Pacific)
 Two 2 hour sessions with a one hour break.
 Presenter: Gay Timmons. Member cost \$325

200 Level IOIA/OMRI Webinar - September 15, 2021

NOP Livestock Input Materials

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) One 3 hour session.
 Presenter: Phoebe Judge. Member cost \$275

100 Level Webinar - September 21 and 28, 2021

IOIA/COTA COR Processing Standard

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hours sessions.
 Trainer: Kelly A. Monaghan. Member cost \$325

100 Level Webinar - November 2 and 5, 2021

NOP Crop Standard

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hour sessions.
 Trainer: Garry Lean. Member cost \$325

200 Level IOIA/OMRI Webinar - November 4, 2021

NOP Processing Input Materials

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hours sessions.
 Presenter: Tina Jensen Augustine. Member cost \$275

100 Level Webinar - November 30 and December 3, 2021

NOP Processing Standard

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hour sessions.
 Trainer: Garry Lean. Member cost \$325

200 Level Webinar - December 1 and 8, 2021

Processing In/Out Balances, Traceability & Recipe Verification under NOP & COR

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Pacific) Two 3 hours sessions.
 Trainer: Kelly A. Monaghan. Member cost \$275

Self-Directed Learning Courses

Canadian Organic Regime - COR Series Trainer Lisa Pierce.

#1 Our Organic Certification System - The Regulation

#2 COR Crop Production Standards Each course takes approximately 3 hours to complete. Inspectors members cost US\$150 each/\$300 both.

Remote Inspection Training Free to inspector members; All others \$200.

[Available in English](#) [Tambien disponible en español.](#)

IOIA/American Grassfed Association Grassfed Dairy, Trainer Harriet Behar. Member cost \$300 - \$325 all others.

Dairy Feed Audit, Trainers Jonda Crosby and Nate Powell-Palm.

Member cost \$350, All others \$375 [See our website to sign up.](#)

Onsite Training Schedule

October 18 - 29, 2021 - Farmington, Minnesota - Basic Crop and Livestock Inspection Trainings

Basic Crop - October 18-22 | Basic Livestock - October 25-29 | Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center

Each course includes 4 days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus ½ day for testing. The basic trainings will be held Monday through Friday at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota.

The trainings follow IOIA's curriculum requirements which include:

- Instruction on the organic standards (USDA National Organic Rule)
- Understanding the difference between inspecting and consulting
- Approved input materials
- Working with organic system plans
- How to inspect organic operations
- Inspector conduct, confidentiality, and ethics
- Audit trail requirements
- Report writing
- Risk assessment
- Effective communication
- Investigative skills

Onsite Training is Back!

IOIA Basic Organic Inspection Training courses are recommended for inspector trainees, certification agency staff, regulatory agency staff, farmers, quality control personnel, consultants, and technical service providers who want to better understand the organic inspection and certification process.

Further details and registration material for the Minnesota Trainings are available on [the IOIA website – Onsite Training page](#)

May 16 - 22, 2022, Saco, Maine - Basic Crop and Processing Inspection Training

IOIA and MOFGA Organic Certification Services will cosponsor basic Crop and Processing trainings at Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Details will be posted as they become available. These courses are concurrent.

Live Online Basic Training Schedule

IOIA's Live Online Basic Training courses require that participants first complete a 100-level Webinar on NOP Standards (2 sessions of 3 hours each) in the respective scope - Crop, Processing, or Livestock. Separate registration is required for this webinar unless previously completed. **Additional Requirements** for the course include participant reliable internet, a computer, and computer literacy.

Live Online Basic Crop Inspection Training

November 15 - 19, 2021. Registration Deadline - October 11

Course Description: The course provides basic level training to develop skills required for inspecting and reporting on the management of an organic crop production operations according to a specified set of standards. For this course the standard is the USDA, National Organic Program (NOP). In addition, participants will be introduced to topics such as global organic certification, biodiversity, soil fertility management, and inspecting as a career. These and other topics are meant to provide historical background, more in-depth knowledge and awareness of current trends in the industry.

Live Online Basic Processing Inspection Training

September 13 - 17, 2021. Registration Deadline - August 9

December 13 - 17, 2021. Registration Deadline - November 8

Course Description: The course provides basic level training to develop skills required for inspecting and reporting on the management of an organic processing production unit according to a specified set of standards. For this course, the standard is the USDA, National Organic Program (NOP). In addition, participants will be introduced to topics such as global organic certification, report writing, and inspecting as a career. These and other topics are meant to provide historical background, more in-depth knowledge and awareness of current trends in the industry.

Not finding a training you are looking for or all trainings full? [Please register here](#) to be contacted by IOIA when that training is available. Detailed Info, Application, Registration for all courses available on our [website](#).

Notes from the Chair, from page 1

But, the most exciting news must be the NOP's Human Capital Capacity Building Initiative release at the beginning of May.

I am so incredibly proud of all the hard work, passion, and long hours that so many contributed over the last several months to make a proposal possible. IOIA has spent generations setting the foundation to be the voice of inspectors and what better platform to demonstrate that honor than to facilitate in finding solutions to the human capital. We are excited about the possibilities of partnering with other organizations committed to organic integrity including and hope to include the perspectives of many stakeholders.

I was impressed with how much thought and effort Margaret and the board put into the brainstorming for our proposal. Our conversations really focused on how to address the pillars of a good inspection, all of which are integral to the human capital solution! How do we recruit and retain quality professionals? How can we better mentor and train inspectors and reviewers?? How do all of these pieces fit together?

Much good work would come of this opportunity. We wish all who submitted a proposal the best of luck. Keep your fingers crossed that IOIA's proposal receives funding! I want to give a special shout out of appreciation to Margaret Scoles, Ellie Hudson, Teri Lindberg, Monique Marez, the Mentorship Committee, and Angela Wartes-Kahl for the many, MANY hours of hard work that made this submission possible!!



OTA's OLPP Lawsuit Continues

June 2021: Motion for Summary Judgement - from the OTA website

The Organic Trade Association has asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to immediately vacate the Department of Agriculture's 2018 withdrawal of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule, and to order USDA to reinstate the organic animal welfare regulation that was published in the closing days of Sec. Tom Vilsack's prior tenure at USDA.

While we welcome Secretary Vilsack's statement [see page 1] that the department will re-evaluate the prior administration's withdrawal of the fully vetted organic animal welfare regulation, and affirmed its commitment to outdoor access for laying hens, the policy statement alone won't guarantee a swift end to this harm. We need to have a legal ruling.

In our motion for summary judgment filed on June 18, we argue that USDA fundamentally dismissed the intent of Congress regarding the department's authority over organic animal welfare, failed to follow the Administrative Procedures Act which governs the process by which federal agencies develop and issue regulations, and buried the economic benefits of the OLPP regulation while inflating its costs.

Arizona State University releases critical to-do list for organic ag

Led by Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, ASU's Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems has released a ground-breaking report outlining 46 recommendations to the President to support organic. Thirty years after the passage of the Organic Foods Production Act, the organic industry still faces a number of challenges. The report seeks to address some of these and to provide policy recommendations to better support the growing organic industry and its positive impacts on human health, the economy, and climate. The report includes bold recommendations such as implementing a USDA-wide organic agenda, communicating the health benefits of organic food, establishing an organic transition label, and developing a water usage standard for the National Organic Program. **Download the report:**

<https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/food/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2021/06/Organic-Report-2021-2.pdf>

A day in the life of the IOIA Executive Director

by Margaret Scoles

More interesting and rewarding than the average job, for sure. True also for our members, who lead interesting lives and who are constantly investing in community. On one day, I have a long Skype visit with inspector Jim Pierce in Fiji, who took a job in an exotic location to see some new parts of the world. He found himself pretty much quarantined for months and working from his “home” apartment. We explore training in Fiji and why the potential inspectors that Luis Brenes and Kathe Purvis trained in 2015 were not onboarded as inspectors. I mention that Nitesh Datt of Fiji just completed our basic live online Crop training with Nate and I. Next thing we know – I’m introducing him to the Asia Pacific Committee and Mutsumi has invited him to their next meeting. On another day, I receive a query about methods of feminizing Cannabis seeds and what is allowed for organic. I don’t know the answer, but I pass her off to a former IOIA inspector who is an expert. One of the best parts of my job is making connections.

Most of my time lately went into endless meetings with potential partners, writing a *Human Capital* application for NOP funding. IOIA could never do what we do without collaboration. In 2020, we partnered with 13 different entities including certifiers, universities, governments, non-profits, and for-profits. That’s another way of making connections.

Welcome news came recently. A NRCS “*Beginning Farmer and Rancher Training for Organic Field Crop and Live-stock Producers in the Northern Great Plains*” proposal was funded, in which we will provide technical support. The National Center for Technology and the Montana Organic Association submitted the proposal with many collaborators. A deliverable is a series of on-farm *Organic Academy Road Show* sessions. We are a close-knit community. Long-time fellow Mon-

tan and colleague Jeff Schahczenski was the chief author of the grant proposal, he serves with me on the IFOAM North America board, and recently took our basic live online crop inspection course delivered in-house for NCAT.

Al Johnson has had no time to visit lately, not even to attend Town Hall. Why? Because he’s been making a documentary of the first 50 years of NOFA – as a volunteer. Nearly every press release or newsletter I open features an IOIA member doing good work. Look throughout this issue for acknowledgments of their initiative and dedication. I happen to remember that Al was the second person to plunk down their charter IOIA dues in Baltimore. That was 30 years ago, and he was helping to found an inspectors organization. And he’s still giving.

In May, I traveled to Kansas City and was honored to serve as a pallbearer for our beloved former board member, Ib Hagsten. I’ve done a lot of unusual things on behalf of IOIA, but it was the first time to carry a casket in a black suit. In Australia in 2010, I ate raw oysters at a business dinner. Here’s the thing – I don’t eat raw oysters. During an All Things Organic Trade Show in perhaps 2009, I danced to Buddy Guy in Chicago with Ray Green, Cdfa. Here’s the thing – I don’t dance. I will miss Ib at the IOIA dances. We’d always sit together and tell people we were ‘sitting this one out’. He couldn’t dance either.

I lost a friend this summer, an unusual friend, made almost by accident. She was the roommate at the nursing



Terrance Layhew stopped by the office in June for a short but wonderful visit. He gave me an Intellectual Agrarian mug and IOIA gifted him with an old logo cap. It seemed quite “retro” but he actually wanted it.

home with my good friend Anne, who is 94. Carol was only 79 and chose not to be vaccinated for Covid. I’d known her all my life and voted for her but I didn’t know her well. During the 3 months that I went to visit, we read three books through what we called “Book Discussion Group”, and became good friends. The last was finished just days before Covid struck. I sat next to her while she had Covid. My vaccine held strong. She passed away. I didn’t even test positive. This is not about Covid or vaccinations (well maybe a little). Carol, a true civil servant, served in county and state boards, in the state legislature, and went to Washington DC to fight for agriculture. She learned to listen. Under her leadership, *Women Involved in Farm Economics* was one of the cosponsors of the first organic event in this county in 1990. By the time she passed, she knew more about the history of the organic program, the regulations, how organic farmers farm, than most anyone here. She said, “I wish we’d have talked 20 years ago; I’d have become an organic inspector!”

The best gift is often your time. And where you invest your time is a measure of what you value.

NOP News

USDA Origin of Organic Livestock - Comment Period May 12 - July 12

On May 12, the AMS National Organic Program (NOP) announced in a Federal Register Notice the reopening of the public comment period for the Origin of Livestock proposed rule originally published in 2015. The comment period was open for 60 days. The Origin of Livestock Notice proposes revisions to the USDA organic regulations that would change how conventional livestock are transitioned into organic production and how transitioned animals are managed in the organic system. This Notice invited comments on specific provisions that were not considered in the previous 2015 proposed rule, based on public comments to that proposed rule and comments received during the supplemental public comment period in 2019. This additional public comment period will inform USDA's development of a final rule. **IOIA was one of 91 organic organizations that signed onto a letter organized by the Organic Farmers Association urging the prompt adoption of a final rule.** OFA's petition gained support from 1,195 individuals! *The organic sector awaits...*

USDA Amends the National List for Organic Livestock and Handling – new materials listed on 205.603 (Livestock) and 205.605 (Handling)

The USDA published a final rule in the Federal Register on June 25 amending the National List based on public input and the April 2019 NOSB recommendations. This final rule adds three substances to the list of substances allowed for organic production and handling.

Oxalic acid as a pesticide for use in apiculture. The final rule amends the National List to add oxalic acid dihydrate to [7 CFR 205.603](#) as a synthetic substance allowed for use in organic apiculture (beekeeping) only. Oxalic acid dihydrate is a pesticide used for Varroa mite control on bees. Oxalic acid is a naturally occurring substance, but this rule allows for the use of the synthetic form (i.e., synthesized via chemical process) of oxalic acid dihydrate.

Nonorganic pullulan for use in dietary supplements with “made with organic” claims (capsules and tablets). This final rule amends the National List to add pullulan to § 205.605(a) as an ingredient allowed only in products labeled, “Made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” (or “made with”). Products labeled “organic” or “100% organic” cannot contain nonorganic pullulan as an ingredient under this final rule. Additionally, the final rule only permits nonorganic pullulan in tablets and capsules for dietary supplements. AMS is finalizing this amendment to the National List, as proposed by NOSB, to add pullulan to the National List for use in “made with” products to provide manufacturers of organic dietary supplements with an option to label products with additional dietary claims (e.g., vegan, vegetarian). Organic forms of pullulan are not readily available. Pullulan is a natural extracellular polysaccharide excretion resulting from carbohydrate fermentation by the yeast-like fungus *Aureobasidium pullulans* and other non-toxic fungi strains. The fungus *A. pullulans* is ubiquitous in nature and is most common in temperate zones in locations such as forest soil, freshwater, on plant leaves, and on seeds. Pullulan has been self-affirmed as GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) for multiple uses, including as a multifunctional food ingredient, a film, and an excipient (GRN No. 99, pp. 26-30).



Collagen gel as a casing for organic products like sausages. Added to 205.605(a).

Effective July 26, 2021, [View the Final Rule](#)

Annual Organic Oversight and Enforcement Report Now Available

As part of the reporting requirements outlined in the 2018 Farm Bill, NOP published the 2020 annual Organic Oversight and Enforcement Report. The report includes a summary of investigations and compliance actions, an update on the work of the Organic Agricultural Product Imports Interagency Working Group, and an overview of organic import oversight. [View the Report](#)

Wins for Organic, excerpted from July 1 National Organic Coalition (NOC) Press Release

The House Committee on Appropriations approved an agriculture spending bill with significant wins for organic. The bill would boost funding for the NOP from \$18 million to \$20 million annually. In addition to increased organic program funding, the report accompanying the bill urges the NOP to increase enforcement efforts to ensure full compliance with the soil health and pasture requirements of USDA organic standards. The bill and the report accompanying the bill include several additional wins for organic: [continued on page 7]

IOIA Committees Launch Fundraising Initiative

IOIA, in its role as the International professional association for organic inspectors, recognizes the obstacles to recruitment and retention of quality inspectors. IOIA plans to address these concerns with a robust on-site apprenticeship training program covering crops, livestock and processing operations. The IOIA Mentorship Committee has been working for months to birth this program, developing a funding strategy, job descriptions, and promotional materials.

IOIA committees are seeking broad sponsorship and funding from organic industry stakeholders who recognize the value inspectors bring to the whole supply chain, including their own brand's reputation. A press release is planned for later this year. IOIA envisions a new continuum, where potential inspectors who have completed basic training will work with an approved mentor to complete an intensive week-long course of inspections, followed by a year-long support component whereby the mentor acts as a resource for the apprentice as he/she gains experience. This can remedy current inconsistencies in inspector preparation and competencies, ensure that mentors are appropriately compensated, and fill the missing rung in the ladder that onboards new inspectors.

CROPP/Organic Valley has joined as an early Supporter of the IOIA Apprenticeship Program *"Organic inspectors play a vital role in the organic certification framework and are largely responsible for verifying the integrity of organic standards. The community can support the retention of well-qualified professionals by working to elevate the status of organic inspectors and reviewers as professionals."* – Mary Capehart, CROPP/Organic Valley

Interested in joining others in donating to this fund? Please visit the IOIA donation page to contribute to the IOIA Apprenticeship Program.

<https://ioia.net/donate.html>

Fundraising experience? Please consider joining an IOIA committee!



Wins for Organic – from page 6

Organic Certification Cost Share Program — The report directs the USDA Farm Service Agency to provide a full explanation of accounting errors that led to cuts in the organic certification cost share program in 2020 and urges USDA to restore “reimbursement levels of 75 percent of annual organic certification costs, including the restoration of prior years.”

Organic Dairy Oversight — The report directs USDA to strengthen enforcement of organic dairy production standards, particularly for “large, complex dairy operations.”

NOSB Backlog — The report also includes provisions requiring USDA to address the backlog of National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations by publishing in the Federal Register and seeking public comment on an action plan for NOSB recommendations that have languished at USDA.

Organic Research — A \$1 million boost in funding for organic research through the Organic Transitions Program. The bill’s report also directs the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at USDA to “develop a five-year plan for organic food and agriculture research encompassing all relevant crop, animal, nutrition, and natural resource national programs.” Congress is also directing ARS to conduct additional research to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the agricultural sector.

Organic Data Collection — The bill includes \$500,000 for the Organic Data Initiative to expand organic data collection efforts.

Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) Survey — The report directs USDA to “provide comprehensive data on land ownership, tenure, landowners’ transition plans, and lease agreements available to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers to understand the trends that lead to secure land tenure and thriving farm businesses” through the TOTAL survey.

Climate Change Funding — The bill would provide \$347.4 million for new investments across USDA focused on climate change research and assessment; measurement and monitoring; greenhouse gas emissions mitigation; carbon sequestration; and clean energy technologies.

The COTA 2021 Organic Leadership Awards Winners Revealed!

Organic Champion of the Year – Ash Street Organics (Kelly Monaghan)

Kelly Monaghan of Ash Street Organics was awarded the title of Organic Champion – indicative of her steadfast commitment to organic excellence. “I am very grateful for this recognition of my time in the organics industry,” says Monaghan. “Our work in advancing organics has never been more important. I feel fortunate to be able to work together towards that goal with so many wonderful people from around the world.”

May 05, 2021 14:41 ET | Source: [Canada Organic Trade Association](https://www.canadaorganictradeassociation.com)



NOFA Celebrates 50 years

“50 Years of NOFA” – a new documentary – captures the spirit, vision, and memories of organic pioneers in the northeastern US. Al Johnson said, “We had some interviews and needed someone to put it all together, and I volunteered. It was so important that they tell their own stories.” The 70 minutes include countless interviews (1995, 1998, 2015, and 2021) including some familiar IOIA faces like Grace Gershuny. It includes starting farmer’s markets, starting direct marketing, starting certification, starting on-farm workshops, living communally and raising food. “We were just a bunch of hippies growing our own food” (Jake Guest as he described the very first NOFA meeting). Pioneers describe how the next generation is taking over their farms and name the books that changed their lives or validated what they were doing.



The end touches on the fight for soil-based organic agriculture and concerns about hydroponics, corporate agribusiness in organic, and confinement organic livestock.



You can’t miss this – look for it soon on a NOFA website near you. Al says he is not sure when it will be publicly available – sometime after final edits. A treasure for the archives, it ends with a positive note with Al on an organic farm and a challenge to the next generation to write the next chapter. Al says, “it’s a gray movie.” in reference to the average age of the speakers.

“This has totally consumed me the last 3 months. During what could be my busy season, I have only worked 5 days for pay since May 1st.” - Al Johnson



50 years of NOFA

Organic News from Canada

Get Active! Health Canada wants to increase glyphosate in our food (even in organic food!) ***EXTENDED DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2021***

The Canada Organic Trade Association will be partnering with three other associations - SaskOrganics, Prevent Cancer Now and Safe Food Matters - who are opposed to the increase to deliver a webinar on this issue in the last weeks of August. The final date and time will be announced shortly.

We would like to thank our ever-engaged stakeholders for the overwhelming response we have received in support of the industry-wide opposition of Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) proposed increase to glyphosate on our food. To date, over 200 submissions have been logged. As a result of this high level of engagement and concern, the PMRA has extended the consultation period until September 3rd, 2021.

The organic sector needs to act now to prevent this increase of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) from occurring as this will also increase the 5% testing MRLs for organic! We have gathered science-based evidence to support your submissions here. Evidence must be science-based so please use the studies outlined when you email hc.pmra.publications-ar-la.sc@canada.ca with your feedback. *From COTA News July 29*

IOIA's Canadian Committee was one of many in the organic sector submitted comments protesting the proposed increase MRL levels of glyphosate in food. Based on strong response to the initial July 20 deadline, the consultation period is now Sept 3, 2021. Comments must be science-based in order to be considered.

Did you miss the webinar on potential changes to the Organic Equivalency Arrangement with the USA?

Have your say on important changes that may be happening to the US - Canada Organic Equivalency!

Deadline August 22, 2021

Please listen [here](#) to ensure you are fully aware of the implications to your supply chain and influence the final position of CFIA in their discussions with NOP. The [powerpoint](#) is also available for your review.

In the information session held on July 29, Lead Auditor of the Canada Organic Regime, Valeriya Staykova, joined Tia Loftsgard of the Canada Organic Trade Association to outline the proposed changes to the US Canada Organic Equivalency arrangement related to multi-ingredient products produced in countries outside of the USA or Canada (referred to as "third country"). The changes have already been implemented by the National Organic Program (NOP) and the webinar was held to inform Canadians of the possible options for Canada and to collect feedback from Canadian stakeholders.

Please listen as the implications could be far reaching and disruptive to your business depending on what stance CFIA takes on this issue. This is your time to get your opinion heard and influence the outcome. [Complete the consultation here](#) to log your feedback with CFIA. Contact info@canada-organic.ca or call 613-482-1717 ext 205 with any questions.

COABC is now officially Organic BC *From the Organic BC website*

As British Columbia's organic sector continues to grow, the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) is excited to announce we are now officially Organic BC. Our vision is to create a more inclusive, collaborative organic sector in the province and continue to work together to build healthy soil, food, people and communities. Organic BC will continue to grow the organic movement in the province from the ground up by supporting and engaging organic certifiers and farmers, helping interested farmers make the switch to organic, and enabling informed consumer choices.

The [new Organic BC website](#) is built with community in mind and includes new tools for organic farmers, prospective organic farmers, consumers, and anyone looking to learn more about what it means to be organic. It features a province-wide organic directory and connects users to educational events and job openings. As well, it offers the latest information and resources on organic agriculture, certification and opportunities to get involved and help shape the sector.

Funding for Organic BC's website and on-line tools has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



International News

[Organic World Conference - 6-10 September](#) *Registration for the OWC2021 is now open*

[General Assembly 2021 | IFOAM 13-14 September](#) Over 2,500 attendees from the organic world will, from 6-10 September, address questions around resilience, societal transformation, health, and food sovereignty at the 20th Organic World Congress.

Ahead of our [2021 General Assembly](#) (GA) this 13 and 14 September, we're excited to be able to share with you the official GA2021 website, your one-stop resource for all info on this virtual event. It will be regularly updated with details on the virtual GA processes and how you can participate. [Visit GA website](#)

U.S. and Mexico Keep Organic Trade Open

On May 7, 2021, Mexico's agriculture secretariat (SADER) extended the deadline for U.S. organic exports to be certified to its Organic Products Law (LPO). U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack met with his counterpart Secretary Victor Villalobos, and they agreed to extend the compliance deadline to December 31, 2021. Through 2021, USDA-certified organic products may continue to be exported, but on January 1, 2022, organic products exported from the U.S. to Mexico must be certified to the LPO standard.

USDA will continue to work with U.S. industry to assist in transitioning to LPO compliance and will continue to provide updates as necessary. Read the [statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#).

For more information on LPO certification in advance of the January 1, 2022 deadline, please see the Foreign Agriculture Service Mexico City's [GAIN report](#), Mexico's [Organic Products Law \(LPO\)](#) information page, a [Questions and Answers document](#) on the LPO, and a [current list of SENASICA-accredited certifiers](#).

From USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

New EU Regs effective January 1, 2022

To read a summary of changes, see IFOAM Organics Europe - www.organicseurope.bio/what-we-do/eu-organic-regulation/



Europe's Organic Action Plan: The development of organic production

The following was excerpted and summarized from a June 17, 2021 on-line article based on a March 25 speech by EU Commissioner of Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, from the Open Access Government website. Wojciechowski outlined [Europe's Organic Action Plan](#) in his March 25 speech presenting it as one of the major initiatives in the Commission Work Programme for 2021.

This action plan is key for the achievement of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies and their targets, which were adopted in May 2020 within the context of the European Green Deal. Both Strategies contain the objective of achieving 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 (and a significant increase in organic aquaculture).

The 25% target is ambitious:

- Currently 8.5% of agricultural land is under organic farming. If we would extrapolate current trends, we would only achieve between 15% and 18% of all agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.
- Member States are at vastly different starting points. In some of them, organic farming accounts for more than 25% of all agricultural land, while in others it accounts for 0.5%.

The purpose of this EU action plan is to help achieve that target of 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. This action plan must be seen in a wider context of assets we can build on:

- The new EU organic regulation, implemented by 2022, provides the legal stability and predictability that is so important for farmers considering converting from conventional agriculture to organic farming.
- Availability of substantial financial incentives, under the current and the new Common

Continued on page 14

CIAO Training

El 23 de abril del 2021, IOIA llevó a cabo una capacitación de actualización de Inspección Remota en línea utilizando Zoom como plataforma de 1.5 horas. Garth Kahl fue el instructor de IOIA que presentó la capacitación de actualización en línea. Los más de 20 participantes eran de CIAO (Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica). Los países miembros incluyen Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana, Uruguay y los Estados Unidos.

Mientras las inspecciones orgánicas remotas sean una de las opciones del inspector, compartir las mejores prácticas es importante. IOIA y CIAO han estado cooperando en la creación de un sitio web sobre inspecciones remotas en español. Contiene herramientas, técnicas y plantillas para que los inspectores pueden utilizarlas durante inspecciones orgánicas remotas. Los expertos en idiomas de CIAO tradujeron muchas de las formas y plantillas del inglés al español. Un seminario web de inspección remota de 3 horas, también impartido por el instructor y experto de IOIA, Garth Kahl en junio de 2020, contó con la asistencia de más de 80 participantes de CIAO, y está disponible para grabación en el sitio web alojado por IOIA.



Garth Kahl

Aquí está el enlace a la página web: [Inicio | IOIA Espanol \(ioiainspeccionesremotas.com\)](https://ioiainspeccionesremotas.com)

AgriExpo Agrícola Organico Latinoamerica 2021

Para noviembre de este año [Agro Mapu] lanzaremos AgriExpo Agrícola Orgánico Latinoamérica 2021 junto a IFOAM Latinoamérica como parte de la organización del evento. El objetivo de este evento es armar vínculos sólidos con cooperativas, comunidades, organizaciones y empresas, y fomentar la inversión extranjera en la agricultura orgánica tanto en Chile como América Latina. AgriExpo Agrícola Orgánico Latinoamérica 2021 ofrecerá información importante a los asistentes para sus propias iniciativas y proyectos. Nuestro evento incentivará los lazos entre los productores, las empresas, los investigadores y los clientes a través del lanzamiento de productos y servicios orgánicos.

Rodrigo Rojas Cheuquenao, W: www.aoachile.com

Agro Mapu Business nació en el 2016. Esto, con el propósito de articular actores, productos y servicios de asesoría, gestión y consultoría en el desarrollo de redes de comercio orgánico en Chile y América Latina mediante el uso de tecnologías amigables. Se apoya de AOA Chile, que puede ser definido como un portal periodístico y de comunicaciones sobre el mundo la agricultura orgánica agroecológica en nuestro continente. Durante estos cinco años, hemos trabajado en el sector agrícola orgánico proponiendo proyectos e iniciativas como los seminarios anuales y la serie de audiovisual conocida como la "Ruta Orgánica Latinoamérica". Este año, tenemos como meta producir la "Ruta Orgánica Chile".



Sobre nuestros proyectos para el año 2021

En primer lugar, estamos renovando las páginas web de cada unas de las empresas y portales reunidos bajo la marca de "Agro Mapu Business". A través de esto esperamos tener una mejor relación con las audiencias del mundo orgánico, como los productores, empresarios, investigadores y académicos de Chile y América Latina.

Por este motivo, le ofrecemos diferentes servicios publicitarios en los espacios que habilitamos en el 2021. Usted podrá anunciar su marcas, productos y servicios en el "Market orgánico" o en página principal de AOA Chile y contactarnos por medio de la página de AOA Chile para conocernos mejor. Asimismo, disponemos de espacios de pauta publicitaria para sus marcas en las producciones audiovisuales de la "Ruta Orgánica". En AgriExpo Agrícola Orgánico Latinoamérica 2021, usted también podrá tener puestos para mostrar sus marcas, productos y servicios. La información de precios se encuentra en el "media kit" que adjunto en este correo.

[Home - Agromapu Business https://agromapu.com/](https://agromapu.com/)

Basic Online Courses

National Center for Appropriate Technology and IOIA have been partners more than once in projects. However, this was the first time NCAT requested that IOIA deliver in-house basic training in Crop Inspection and Livestock Inspection. A few participants joined the Live Online virtual classroom trainings from the national NCAT headquarters in Butte, Montana. The others ranged from locations from Texas to Mississippi to both coasts of the US.



IOIA/NCAT Basic Crop Inspection Training group with trainers Margaret Scoles and Jonda Crosby, April 19-23. Garry Lean delivered the Livestock training May 10-14.



Live Online Processing Training May 10-14 with trainers Garry Lean and Garth Kahl. Nine participants included 2020 Rutherford Scholarship Recipient Anais Edwards.

Basic Online Courses



Live Online Processing Training June 21-25 with trainer Garry Lean and seven participants.

How is a live online basic training like a remote inspection? Well, we've learned that some things can be done as well or better virtually, and we've perfected new techniques for effectively delivering training. We will be glad to get back to onsite training, but we will try to remember the new tricks we've learned and continue to use them. Many of them can be used equally well in the onsite classroom. In the same way, we are all glad to be back to mostly onsite inspections, but we hope to keep implementing the best of our learnings with remote inspection.



Live Online Crop Inspection Training June 7-11. Eight participants with trainers Nathaniel Powell-Palm and Margaret Scoles.

IOIA/ACA Remote Inspections June 3 Workshop: Lessons Learned from Pandemic Inspecting

As an outcome of the “Sharing our Perspectives” sessions during the ACA/IOIA Conference earlier this year, the IOIA and ACA boards prioritized four activities as potential collaborations of urgent need and high relevance. One of those was an update on Remote Inspection Training. Initially, the target topic was unannounced inspections, but that was broadened. A committee of IOIA inspectors and ACA certifiers developed the free training. No advance registration was required and there was no registration limit. The original plan was not to share a recording. At midnight, just hours before the session began, 103 people had registered. By the time the session began, there were 283 people registered! And 135 had registered between 10 minutes before the session to 15 minutes after. There was too little time to adjust smoothly, and it took time to upgrade the IOIA zoom account to accommodate everyone. In the end, the recording was shared with everyone who registered. First lesson learned - require advance registration! Fortunately, the entire session was recorded. Everyone who registered was sent the link to the recording.

- Conducting Remote Unannounced Inspections: Amanda Birk, Independent Inspector and Denae Ranucci, QAI
- Reviewing Remote Inspection Reports: David Houston, OEFFA
- Conducting Inspections Without an Authorized Representative: Ali Dermond, WSDA
- Roundtable Discussion on Remote Inspections: Moderated by Terrance Layhew, Independent Inspector

Some certifiers have decided that they do not want to do remote inspections. Most inspectors found it wonderful to be back on-site, although they experienced more unprepared clients and found time management challenging. Everyone agreed that the addition of hybrid inspections to the toolbox as a trusted tool was a valuable outcome. A mixed bag, for sure!

This is the first of two sharing sessions to discuss tips and tricks for remote and hybrid audits. Watch for the next one in the 3rd quarter of 2021. THANK YOU TO OUR Presenters, facilitator Amanda Birk, and our Moderator Terrance Layhew!

Europe's Organic Plan *from page 10*

Agricultural Policy, but also under Horizon Europe and under the agricultural promotion policy, which will support the implementation of this action plan.

- The high level of public trust in organics and the growing level of public recognition of the EU organic logo

A smart approach has been developed, based on an analysis of the sector and on proposed actions that have all been widely endorsed by stakeholders and the broader public during the public stakeholder consultation.

Focus on citizen demand and consumption first The first axis of the action plan is called “stimulating demand, ensuring consumer trust” and contains measures such as: Information measures; agricultural promotion campaigns and awards; greater uptake of organics in public canteens and Green Public Procurement; organic products in school schemes; preventing food fraud, improving traceability; and reinforcing the role of retailers, wholesalers, catering services, restaurants and other businesses.

Mobilising the Common Agricultural Policy The action plan should be seen in conjunction with, and it can build on, a number of assets. One of those assets is the Common Agricultural Policy, which will be mobilised fully to support the implementation of the plan, and in particular its second axis, which is called “stimulating conversion, reinforcing the entire value chain”. The CAP will provide financial support, but also other types of support. As regards financial support, the relevant CAP instruments include the eco-schemes and rural development environmental management commitments, which include organic farming. The eco-schemes will be backed by a budget of €38-58 billion for the period 2023-2027, depending on the outcome of the on-going negotiations. CAP support will also include technical assistance and the exchange of best practices and innovations in organics.

Focus on better use of natural resources Organic farming is currently the only system that has been recognised by a robust certification method. It leads by example on the path to more sustainable agricultural practices, a better use of renewable resources, higher animal welfare standards, and higher incomes for farmers. This does not mean, however, that the sustainability of organic farming cannot be further improved. This is why this action plan includes a strong focus on a better use of natural resources and on reductions in the use of plastics, water and energy.

Europe's Organic Plan, from page 14

Specific relevant actions include the following:

- Taking steps, to set up, in cooperation with stakeholders, a pilot network of carbon-neutral/climate positive organic holdings, to share best practices.
- A proposed mission in the area of Soil Health and Food could contribute to the pilot network in particular through the deployment of living labs and lighthouses and other activities supporting carbon farming.
- Earmarking funding under Horizon Europe for research and innovation projects on alternative approaches to contentious inputs, paying particular attention to copper and other substances as assessed by the European Food Safety Authority.
- Preparing guidelines and criteria under which the use of sustainable bio-based materials that are easily degradable in natural conditions is beneficial and on how to improve the reuse and collection of recyclable plastics. The guidelines will be applicable to all types of agriculture, organic farming leading the way.
- Promoting the more efficient and sustainable use of water, the increased use of renewable energy and clean transport, and the reduction of nutrient release, in all types of agriculture, with organic farming leading the way, and with the involvement of the Member States through their CAP Strategic Plans, as well as with the new Strategic Guidelines for aquaculture and EMFAF.

Focus on research & innovation: This plan includes a strong focus on research and innovation. The proposal is to dedicate at least 30% of the budget for research and innovation actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant for the organic sector.

Specific relevant actions include:

- Support research and innovation under Horizon Europe on alternative sources of organic vitamins and other substances that might turn out to be necessary, and on alternative sources of protein keeping in mind their technical and economic feasibility.
- Support research and innovation on alternative sources of nutrients, breeding and animal welfare in aquaculture.
- Earmark funding under Horizon Europe to support the preservation and use of genetic resources, pre-breeding and breeding activities, and the availability of organic seeds, and to contribute to the development of organic heterogeneous plant reproductive material and plant varieties suitable for organic production.
- Earmark funding under Horizon Europe for research and innovation projects on alternative approaches to contentious inputs, paying particular attention to copper and other substances as assessed by the European Food Safety Authority.



Novelties: We will stimulate the sector's visibility through awards recognising excellence in the organic food chain in the EU; an EU organic day; and new concepts like Biodistricts. A Biodistrict is a geographical area where farmers, the public, tourist operators, associations and public authorities enter into an agreement for the sustainable management of local resources, based on organic principles and practices. The aim is to maximise the economic and sociocultural potential of the territory.

Link to **Europe's Organic Action Plan** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1275

Link to full article by Commissioner Wojciechowski -

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/europes-organic-action-plan/113149/>

Some in North America have suggested that it is time for an update of the National Organic Action Plan (NOAP). Perhaps time for a broader North American Organic Action Plan? In 2019, RAFI-USA published "Towards a National Organic Action Plan", a 37-page discussion paper based on the NOAP Summit in LaCrosse, Wisconsin Feb 25-26, 2009. www.rafiusa.org/programs/just-foods/national-organic-action-plan/.

In Memoriam – Ib Hagsten



Ib Hagsten, PhD, IOIA accredited member, passed away suddenly on April 27. He would have been 78 in May.

Executive Director Margaret Scoles shares: “Ib was diagnosed with terminal multiple myeloma in the summer of 2013 while he was on the Board of Directors, shortly after he turned 70. His family had planned a major trip to Denmark (his birth home) to celebrate his birthday. Shortly after he returned to the US, he learned of the cancer. He was chair of the board at the time. He was given a prognosis of a year to live without treatment. He opted for all the treatments available, including alternative medicine and prayer. He got 8 more years. He was one of the toughest people I’ve ever known. He delivered the annual report in Costa Rica by Skype with a bald chemo head in 2014. He was superb support of our trade show booths. He loved to engage with conversations when people stopped by. He continued to work until he passed; re-

mote inspections worked out well for him over the past year. He apprenticed many new inspectors and called it “paying forward”. He even found time to write a book about his own life a couple years ago. Ib was an extraordinarily supportive and engaged chair. That support continued after he went off the board. He was a kind, selfless, service-oriented person of deep faith who truly loved getting to know people. He always asked after my hens. When I received the Leadership in Organics Award in Baltimore, he was there. I asked in advance if I could use his great line “when you see a frog on a fence post, you know he didn’t get there by himself...” In his first board meeting in 2011, he explained that his participation would be that of a partnership. His wife Patricia read his email messages and took his phone calls. If that was a problem, we should let him know. She signed a confidentiality form and that was that. He always shared any recognition that he received with Patricia.”

Ib completed two Masters degrees, and then a PhD. at Purdue. He and Patricia married in 1968. He became a US citizen in 1981. The family moved to Gladstone, Missouri in 1984. As the top multi-species global technical advisor for a nutrition firm, he earned the name “The Great Dane” to save people from trying to pronounce his name. He did international consulting work in Asia, the former Soviet Republic, and Central America, as well as work on American Indian reservations.

Ib began inspecting in 2005 and worked inspecting, consulting, speaking, and performing field evaluations for IOIA. He served on the board from 2011 until 2017- 6 years. Those listening to the Spring NOSB meeting heard his comment in support of IOIA’s vision of a accreditation program just days before he passed. He leaves his wife and two daughters, Ellen and Lisa. Appropriately, he was named “Ib” after his father’s favorite work horse.

Please [follow this link to the official obituary for Ib](#), which covers his life long interests and achievements in agriculture.



IOIA IS EXPECTING OUR FIRST BABY!

Jennie Olson, Administrative Assistant, now 5 years with IOIA, and her husband John are expecting a baby girl. You probably won’t find her at the end of the phone or supporting a webinar around December 1. Her other job when she’s not working at IOIA is all focused on livestock. She maintains a micro-non-traditional dairy and raises calves, lambs, and sometimes pigs on the milk. This photo was snapped when the photographer arrived early for the “baby shoot” and caught Jennie bringing in the cows for milking. Her favorite wedding gift was the pure-bred milking Shorthorn cow on the halter.

Resources

[‘Soil for Water’ Regenerative Agriculture Project Expands to Montana](#)

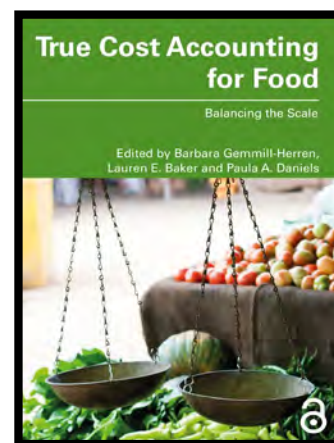
Building on a successful peer-to-peer network of Texas ranchers who are implementing innovative grazing techniques to improve soil health and increase profitability, NCAT is [scaling up its Soil for Water project](#) to support livestock producers and farmers across seven southern states and Montana. By late summer, the project will be available to ranchers and farmers across Montana. The effort aims to reach hundreds of family-owned farms and ranches, creating a network of producers who prosper by applying land management practices that improve soil health, catch more water in soil, reduce erosion, sustain diverse plant and animal life, and filter out pollutants. [Read more](#). *NCAT Weekly Harvest, July 14, 2021*

True Cost Accounting for Food - Book Launched

True Cost Accounting for Food - Balancing the Scale, Edited By Barbara Gemmill-Herren, Lauren E. Baker, Paula A. Daniels

In this book, *True Cost Accounting for Food: Balancing the Scale*, the authors apply a holistic lens that evaluates the actual costs and benefits of different food systems, including their impacts. Available for \$31.96 US in paperback: [True Cost Accounting for Food: Balancing the Scale - 1st Edition - Bar \(routledge.com\)](#)

Also available from the same site as free pdf download (6.9MB) or read online. [Click on Taylor & Francis eBooks](#).



OTA Market Basket Report

The new OTA Market Basket provides a periodic look at a basket of twenty best-selling organic grocery items. The snapshot reports volume and average retail price changes for the range of items which, taken together, are broadly representative of U.S. organic food sales. Some metrics include Average Item price; Average basket price and is this keeping pace with the rate of inflation?; and Volume/Changes to volume. More broadly, increases in basket volumes may indicate an uptick in organic's popularity or distribution channels.

The Organic Market Basket will be updated on a quarterly basis. OTA will share a limited ticker indicating total basket volume and price changes on OTA.com. A more extensive Basket will be shared with OTA members.

OTA website, 7/22/2021

New Organic Integrity Learning Center (OILC) course: Conducting Yield Analysis

The **Conducting Yield Analysis** course explains how to access data, calculate yields, evaluate findings, and document the analysis. The course also includes exercises which provide practical experience applying this essential oversight tool. Yield analysis is an essential tool for protecting the integrity of organic imports.

New Microlearning. This new format is designed for quick, on-the-job learning. Each microlearning covers one topic, includes an ungraded knowledge check, and can be completed in 10-15 minutes.

Microlearning is great for all organic stakeholders. You can use microlearning to understand the public comment process, review the ins and outs of adverse actions, learn critical inspection skills and more. New topics are added frequently!

Current microlearning topics include, among others:

- Conducting a Mass Balance Audit
- Documenting a Trace-Back Audit

To access Microlearning, register for the NOP Microlearning course in the OILC. This course contains a library of all microlearning pages. Navigate to a microlearning by selecting a topic on the left side of the screen.

To see a complete list and learn more - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/2e70857>

Board of Directors Minutes Highlights

(full minutes available to inspector members on the IOIA website)

March 12, 2021 11:02 a.m. -1:31 p.m. EST

Attendance: Janine Gibson (vice chair, acting chair), Heather Donald, Rachel Cherry Myers, Terrance Layhew, Chuck Mitchell, Allan Benjamin, Beth Dominick, Margaret Scoles – ED.

Opening Circle: All BOD members and Margaret shared about their background and current involvement in the industry and inspecting, where they are based geographically, what they value personally about IOIA, what their goals are for both themselves in serving on the board and for IOIA.

BOD Orientation: Margaret shared the infographic summarizing the 2020 training and membership stats. She presented IOIA's 2021 Annual Plan Overview – all the activities that IOIA performs or participates in throughout each month in the year (program services, management, industry affairs, and promotion). She then presented a new orientation Power-Point covering specifics on IOIA organizational structure and function, and BOD functions. Margaret suggested that the notetaker for the meetings could be a staff person, which would facilitate greater participation by the Secretary.

Election of Officers: (announced in last issue of newsletter).

April 15, 2021 6 p.m. – 9:08 p.m. EDT

Attendance –Janine, Terrance, Beth, Rachel, Allan, Heather, and Chuck. Others: Margaret Scoles, ED. Rachel chaired the meeting, assisted by Terrance.

Treasurer's Report: Balance Sheet and Budget vs Actual very strong in 1st quarter. Janine moves to accept treasurer report and 1st quarter financials – no objections.

Membership and Apprenticeship Pilot Program and Fundraising: IOIA can help solve the problem of Human Capital. Draft budget is under development by the Fundraising committee. Committee likes the idea of creating scholarship program for participants, but they also need to put some payment into attending the program. Two Employment/ Contract Opportunities – Training development director (Raise money for apprentice training), Part-Time / Contract; and Part-time/Contract to develop the Program. Getting feedback from Companies that have been asked for money that they question the financial sustainability.

Strategic Planning – Rachel - Reference to Strategic Plan Rough Draft Spreadsheet. Mentorship Committee would like to have input from board which would include funding to get the program going. Need funding for employment positions. The board needs to develop a General outline for the next 3-5 years which is the Strategic Plan and work on the Annual plan for 2022. Training, Credentialing and Membership are all linked together with the same end in sight – trained inspectors. Incorporate Global Community into three main categories. Annual Plan deals with all the money issues and administration – The Strategic Plan deals with the projects proposed. Terrance Moved to explore a budget proposal to have hard numbers to look at for a future vote on strategic planning. No opposition.

RFP to NOP – Request for Proposal: Need to get IOIA positioned with partners to strategically place themselves to get funding. **State of industry study** – Both ACA and IOIA said in NOSB comments that it is needed. **Credentialing Feasibility Study** – Alliance for Organic Integrity – onboard to be partner. Need program that is Internationally known. Certifiers will need to be involved. **Apprenticeship Feasibility and Pilot Program** – No partner yet.

Remote Inspections – Chuck Fear of going to all Remote inspections – AI may come into factor in this. Will inspectors be eliminated? Need to defend the profession. Keep on IOIA radar.

ACA-IOIA Joint Work Planning – Project Spreadsheet created by Connie Karr, ACA Chair

Schedule BOD meetings: Every Month after Town Hall – May skip a couple months throughout the year. Every third Thursday – 6 – 8 p.m. EDT. BOD needs to meet with Jenny Tucker – should provide her the results of our inspector survey (lightly redacted to remove comments that identify specific certifiers) in advance.

AGM for 2022: Eureka California – unique area – Beth provided resource link. Did we want to collaborate with the ACA for training in TX in 2022? A Virtual option needs to be addressed. AGM in 2023 is in New Orleans with ACA.

Board of Directors Minutes Highlights

(full minutes available to inspector members on the IOIA website)

May 20, 2021 – 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. EDT

Attendance: Janine, Terrance, Beth, Rachel, Allan, Heather, Chuck, and Margaret Scoles, ED

2020 Annual Report –Terrance moved to post to website. No opposition.

Mentorship Committee on Apprenticeship Pilot Program and Fundraising – Last meeting of Mentorship Committee met with Ellie Hudson. Next step Angela Wartes-Kahl drafted press release for the Committee. The press release will let people know what IOIA's plans are for the Apprenticeship Program. Chuck – The program is worldwide – correct? Terrance replied – this would be a pilot program in the USA and then make it broader. Rachel – There is not opposition by the Board, they would like to see a business plan and finances and pieces in place before it goes forward. The Board supports the release of the Press Release and thanks the Mentorship Committee for its hard work and encourages its efforts.

Intros with Ellie Hudson –working on Credentialing and if time will assist with Apprenticeship. In the immediate, workload will be assisting to write the RFA.

RFA to NOP – Request for Proposal. Confirm projects - Discussion. Jenny Tucker recommended that the organization submitting the proposal needs to have unique capabilities that no one else in the world can deliver. Creating a Career Path for Organic Professionals – the glue that puts project together. Three top projects selected by BOD are (1) State of industry. (2) Credentialing; and (3) Apprenticeship.

MOU with Alliance for Organic Integrity - Janine made a motion to authorize Margaret to sign the joint venture agreement MOU with AOI. No opposition. Beth moves to allocate \$20,000 from the staff budget to Contract Labor for RFA writing. No opposition.

Strategic Planning: Potential retreat – Would include consultants and Board members that would like to attend. Would take an estimated \$20,700 for expenses of consultants/meeting logistics/ to complete writing of strategic plan. Janine moved to approve rates / logistics / spending of the proposed dollar figures for the strategic planning. No objections. Later fall is better. Allan – consultant contracts need to state that IOIA will be presented with a finished strategic plan. There needs to be specific deliverables stated in the contracts with the consultants. Chuck - needs a three-year foundational document and board will need to make yearly operating plans from the document.

June 17, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EDT

Attendance: Janine, Terrance, Beth, Rachel, Allan, and Margaret Scoles, ED – Heather joined late. Absent: Chuck

BOD Retreat: Dates discussed. Rachel – If the board does not meet, this may delay strategic plan for a year. If a date cannot be determined, a work group may be formed and utilize Zoom as the meeting platform.

NOP Request for Application – Summary. Need to update budget for Inspector Workforce Data Collection to pay inspectors. More in the budget to pay inspectors for real time management documentation, working groups, potential focus group and in-depth interviews. BOD agrees that participants doing the in-depth jobs should be paid. Reviewers should be included in the data survey. The person interviewing inspectors is not in the budget yet. People that have left industry need to be included in the surveys and all past participants (10 years) in the IOIA trainings. Credentialing Budget – Also needs to be increased. Risk mitigation and Efficiency needs to put into place. These questions can be put into the survey. Mentors need to be compensated in the apprenticeship program. Remote training website could be a great foundation for resource for new inspectors. Could become a resource library or toolbox of forms.

Confirm Adequate Budget for RFA contractors: Board supports funds to be used as needed – up to \$30,000. Allan makes motion, no objections.

Covid Policy for in-person trainings – IOIA should have participants sign off that they will follow CDC guidelines. IOIA cannot police other than the honor system. There needs to be a nonrefundable application fee set up in the checkout with new website. Janine moves to follow Covid Policy recommendation made by Margaret for in-person trainings and the flexibility that will be needed for reduced class size. No objections.

Certifier-Inspector Dialogue Call – Invite BOD to these calls. BOD attendance not required but the invitation would keep Board informed. Margaret added BOD to list of participants.

ED Report – written report; shared Inspector member's partner has passed away from Covid – it does hit close to home. Inspectors are on the front lines.



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KEEP IOIA STRONG – LEND YOUR STRENGTH AND GET INVOLVED!

2021-2022 Calendar

**Many live events have moved to a virtual platform at this time.
Please check your favorite event's website for updates.**

August 6 Online *Healthy Communities from the Ground Up* Conference
Stories and information about SARE Farmer/Rancher research grants, panel discussions on health in the environment and Kansas communities, and more.

August 8-10 San Marcos, Texas *Southern Family Farmers and Food Systems Conference*
Educational and networking opportunities.

August 3, 10, 17, and 27 Online *Exploring Agritourism for Your Farm*
A free online workshop in four two-hour sessions

September 6 - 10 Hybrid event. [20th Annual Organic World Congress, Rennes, France.](#)

September 13 - 14 The General Assembly of IFOAM - Organics International will be held on Zoom.

September 22 - 25 Philadelphia, PA *Natural Products Expo East*
9:00am to 5:00pm

October 13 - 21 Sacramento, CA NOSB Fall Meeting

January 31- February 2, 2022 OTA Organic Week 2022 - Washington, D.C.
Monday evening for the Organic PAC Reception, Tuesday Conference Day and the Organic Dinner Celebration,
Wednesday advocate for organic in targeted meetings on the Hill.

[Event Info Here](#)

**PLEASE SEE PAGES 2 & 3 FOR THE CURRENT LIST OF
IOIA LIVE ONLINE, ONSITE, WEBINAR AND SELF-DIRECTED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**